

The
Campus
Voice is
dis-
tributed

twice a month during the academic year by the President's Office to faculty and staff of Greenfield Community College and Foundation. Please share your news with your GCC colleagues by contacting Chris Harris, editor, in any of the following ways: call 498-2133 (leave message on machine if necessary); fax to 498-2232; e-mail to crharris@javanet.com or harris using the GCC e-mail system. Please direct your comments and suggestions to Charles Wall.

Campus Voice

February 8, 1999

Abbie Jenks is liaison to GCC Foundation

"I've only sat in on a couple of meetings of the Foundation," says **Abbie Jenks, MSW**, program coordinator and fulltime instructor for the Human Services Program in the Behavioral Sciences Div. Abbie takes over from Kate Douglas. As a trained Social Worker, Abbie hopes to bring her communication skills to the position of liaison between the staff, faculty, and Foundation. Abbie is open and available for any discussion or questions from all staff at GCC, and looks forward to being useful and helpful to all.

GCC makes strong showing at New England College Dance Festival

In their first ever participation in the New England College Dance Festival, GCC dance faculty were invited to conduct four master classes. "That's quite an achievement for a school our size," says **Sharon Arslanian**, Coordinator of the Dance Program. "But we brought different cultural forms of dance that not many colleges are offering, and that's one of our strengths." Marilyn Middleton was scheduled to teach African dance, and Sharon Arslanian was asked to conduct master classes in tap and Middle



Eastern Dance. The four-day event was held at Springfield College January 14th - 17th. Thanks to funding from the Greenfield Community College Foundation and the Humanities Department, GCC sent four faculty (**Marilyn Middleton, Sharon Arslanian, Kathy Keillor, and Ann Sorvino**) and three students (**Willie Brown, Jr., Lynn Elston, and Alanna Holmes**). Sharon's husband, pianist **Paul Arslanian**, accompanied classes at the festival.

(Continued on page 2)

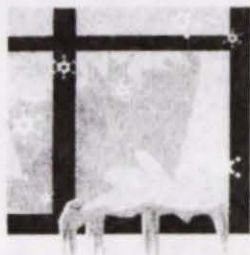
University of Tennessee Press to publish Back Up On Brushy, by Michael Hoberman

Recently returned from a semester of teaching at Utrecht University in Holland, **Michael Hoberman**, Adjunct instructor of English, is putting the finishing touches on his first book, **Back Up on Brushy: Folk Regional Identity in Sawmill Valley of Western Massachusetts, 1890 - 1920**. Begun as Hoberman's Ph.D. dissertation in American Studies, the project was destined for a larger audience, which it will find upon its 1999 publication by the Univer-

sity of Tennessee Press. The book's strong human interest appeal stems from the many oral history interviews with elderly residents of North Leverett and Moore's Corner. "There are all kinds of stories about the lumbering industry that was once a big factor there," says Hoberman, "and the many sawmills that made up Sawmill River Valley. People talked to me about farming practices, buried treasure legends, just all kinds of things." Brushy Mountain, the story goes,

was the first part of North Leverett to be settled in the 1700's; locals ascribe this settlement pattern to their ancestors' fears of Indian attacks. "There were many stories that were passed from generation to generation about these pioneers, including a buried treasure story that has come down in different versions." From the beginning of the project, Hoberman was intrigued by the ethnic mix of the area. "Just looking at the names on mail-

(Continued on page 2)



Besides the much anticipated garden, the two-car garage ranks high on Dennis's list of highly-valued features. "No more windshields to scrape!"



Donna Wilson, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for Humanities, has been appointed by the state Board of Higher Education to serve on the new *Exit Assessment Task Force*, composed of 16 members representing the state and community colleges. "My personal and professional interest in this," says Donna, "and one of the strengths that I bring to Greenfield Community College, is my research and work in assessment at the local and national level." An assessment is simply a way of measuring what students have learned, to see if they're prepared to go into the workforce, or prepared to enter a four-year school. It can take a variety of forms: a test, a portfolio, a capstone performance, or some culminating event or activity that the student participates in.

"Assessment is a national trend," notes Donna. "It's been coming, and it's been talked about for some time, and all schools are looking at this across the United States. In all fairness, there's a lot of controversy surrounding it, too, because there is some concern that faculty are being told what to teach and how to teach it—when, in fact, that's not the case. Good assessment tools should not interfere with issues of academic freedom because the instructor designs the measurable evaluation for his or her students."

This New House

"We only moved about a mile from where we lived before," says **Dennis Koonz**. But to hear him talk, you'd think Dennis and Kathy have moved into a whole new latitude! "My favorite feature of the house is the lot," explains Dennis. "It's a big sunny lot; my garden will have sun from six in the morning to six at night. The sun even streams into the house in the winter, which is so nice." It all started with a special lot Dennis and Kathy had had their eye on for a while. Their patience paid off a couple of years ago, and Dennis started clearing the lot of its 30-year small growth forest. Dennis wields a mean chain



saw—and he has a four-inch scar to prove it. "That was pretty funny," he recalls. (Right, Dennis.) But he finished clearing the lot by the end of that summer ('97). A year ago this spring they poured the foundation, and the new house was finished by Labor Day. "We took a colonial style and pretty much designed the floor plan ourselves." The builder of the stick-framed house was New England Homes, out of Belchertown. "They stayed within two or three percent of budget," notes Dennis. "We've been in Orange since 1984," says Dennis, who recommends Orange as a great real estate

value, with a regionally recognized elementary school system, where Kathy Koonze is a special ed teacher in an inclusion classroom (fifth grade). Kathy and Dennis have two sons: Bobby (13) and Steven (4). Dennis has been at GCC for 16 years, starting out in what was the media center and is now computer services and publications. Dennis designs GCC's handsome brochures and catalogs (including the new Foundation newsletter, *The Catalyst*) and recently the first three levels of the college's web site. Dennis also serves on the Massachusetts Community College Marketing Collaborative and teaches ART175, Desktop Publishing. Dennis and Kathy are both GCC grads—Dennis finished up at U.Mass and Kathy went on to Fitchburg State for their subsequent degrees. **CS**

Back Up On Brushy, by Michael Hoberman

(Continued from page 1)

boxes I noted French Canadian and Polish surnames, so I figured it would be interesting to see what happened to the different traditions. What I found in the end was that, by moving to that valley, they assimilated to a sense of place that had nothing to do

with ethnicity and everything to do with local geography and work practices. The book's theoretical premise, which is what will make it of potential interest to scholars in the fields of American studies and folklore, is that these turn-of-the-century up-country Yankees were not isolated or ignorant peas-

ants, but active participants in the modernization of New England." Hoberman's wife, **Janice Sorensen**, is doing the photography for the book, which will include portraits of the people interviewed, and some landscape scenes as well to give readers a feel for the region.

GCC participates in regional dance festival

(Continued from page 1)

The event allows students and faculty to see work presented by other college dance programs, and to take master classes taught by dance professionals. At adjudication concerts, a panel of judges critiques performances of original choreography by students and

faculty. Going to an American College Dance Festival event is valuable for both faculty and students, says Arslanian. "It's a great way for students to meet other dancers, and for faculty to share ideas with other dance educators. Plus, it's a way for us as a department to become known on a re-

gional and eventually a national basis." Arslanian hopes GCC will become a voting member of the organization, and thus eligible to submit dances for adjudication. "We hope to go every year, because it gives us visibility, and lots of information to bring back to our students."